(e) the details of action plan formulated for promotion of tourism during the current year and next two years, highlighting the projects to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) Tourism projects are sanctioned by the Ministry on the basis of project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority under the following schemes:

1. Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits
2. Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects
3. Computerisation and Information Technology
4. Fairs, Festivals and Events.
5. Rural Tourism—Infrastructure and Capacity Building for Service Providers.

During the year 2007-08, financial assistance of Rs. 64513.23 lakh has been sanctioned for 277 projects for development and promotion of tourism in various States and Union Territories.

Implementation of projects is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism also reviews the progress of projects with officials from State Governments/Union Territory Administrations at regular intervals.

Adverse effects on tourism due to Goa and Rajasthan incidents

†3088. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the incidents which have taken place in Goa and Rajasthan recently may have adverse effects on the tourism; and

(b) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) 'Public Orders' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, the prevention of crime, including crimes against tourists is the primary responsibility of State Governments/Union Territories. Following recent reports in the media regarding harassment and misbehaviour with tourists in India, the Ministry of Tourism discussed the issue of safety and security of tourists, amongst other issues, with Secretaries of Tourism of States/Union Territories, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence. It was emphasized that ensuring the safety and security of tourists is of paramount importance and State Governments/Union Territories must ensure the same. The foreign tourist arrival figure from January to March 2008 has shown an increase of 12.2% over the same period of 2007.

Budget Hotels

†3089. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to make plan for budget hotels in view of increasing tourism in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this direction;

(c) the number of foreign tourist came in the country during year 2007-08 and the facilities provided to the foreign tourists at tourist places; and

(d) when the Ministry has received the demand for declaring Dongargarh of Chhattisgarh as tourist place?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Construction of hotels is primarily a private sector activity. Ministry of Tourism is in regular touch with the State Governments and various land owning agencies like Railways, Ministry of Civil Aviation etc. for creating land banks for hotels, allocating land on joint venture/revenue sharing basis, adopting single window clearance, increasing FAR/FSI. Ministry of Tourism offers capital subsidy for budget hotels of one, two and three star category in the country.

(c) Foreign tourist arrivals in the year 2007 was 5 million.

(d) Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 316.97 lakh for destination development of Dongargarh, Chhattisgarh and has released an amount of Rs. 253.58 lakh *vide* sanction No. 5-PSW(75)/2006 dated 25th July, 2007.

Bed and Break-fast Scheme

3090. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Incredible India Bed and Break-fast Scheme has been successful in the country after its launch;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to give incentives to Bed and Break-fast units;

(d) if so, the details of the proposed incentives;

(e) the extent to which the scheme will address the accommodation shortage in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

(f) the total number of units likely to come up in the next two financial years in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (f) The Incredible India Bed and Breakfast Scheme has been launched all over the country. The Government of NCT of Delhi has decided that (i) domestic water and power tariff would be levied on these premises; (ii) no luxury tax would be applicable to such establishments and (iii) property tax would be levied as on tenanted premises on pro-rata basis. Ministry of Tourism has written to all State Governments/Union Territories including the State of Uttar Pradesh to consider granting similar incentives to Bed and Breakfast establishments. Since the Incredible India Bed and Breakfast Scheme is a voluntary scheme, the total number of units likely to come up in the next two financial years cannot be assessed.